



MATTHEW

The Upside down Kingdom

Matthew 16

The Messiah would suffer and die for His people.



Matthew 16:1-12

The clear signs of God's work are all around us

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The clear signs of God's work are all around us

- The disciples, the crowds, and the Pharisees and Sadducees had heard His teaching and seen His miracles for years at this point, and yet they still asked for a sign from heaven.
- They were looking for anything to publicly discredit Him.
- He criticized them for not being able to interpret "the signs of the times."



The clear signs of God's work are all around us

- They could interpret the natural signs of the heavens – a red sky in the morning meant Mediterranean winds would bring rain.
- As experts in the law, they should also have been able to interpret the signs of the coming of God's kingdom.
- The Pharisees and Sadducees should have been able to tell that Jesus was the Messiah.



The clear signs of God's work are all around us

- Jesus repeated the exact same condemnation He had given them in Matthew 12 when they asked for a sign (Matthew 12:38–42).
- This is likely why He didn't explain what "the sign of Jonah" was; He had already done so four chapters earlier.
- Common Jewish belief: a wicked and adulterous generation would immediately precede the coming of the Messiah.



The clear signs of God's work are all around us

- Jesus had told them that at The Judgment, they would be condemned by pagans who repented without demanding a sign.
- Jesus' condemned the towns of Capernaum, Chorazin and Bethsaida in Matthew 11. Even though they saw the most signs of Jesus, they rejected Him, while the Gentile cities of Tyre and Sidon would have repented (Matthew 11:21).



The clear signs of God's work are all around us

- This is why Jesus warned the disciples to be on their guard against of the "yeast" of the Pharisees and Sadducees.
- This was a play on words in the Aramaic, refers to their teaching.
- In their culture, yeast was a metaphor for something that grows and spreads and changes that which it inhabits.



Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus as Messiah is the rock on which the Church is built

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Jesus as Messiah is the rock on which the Church is built

- Jesus took His disciples to Caesarea Philippi, near the city of Dan.
- It is at the base of Mount Hermon.
- This was about as pagan a place that you could find in Israel.
- When the kingdom split in the Old Testament, the city was the center of false worship to Baal.



Jesus as Messiah is the rock on which the Church is built

- It was a place where people worshipped the pagan god, Pan.
- The pagans believed gods lived in the underworld and returned to earth each spring through the “gates of hell” (verse 18).
- To entice Pan to return to earth, the pagans engaged in “worship” that included drunken orgies and other perverse activities.







Jesus as Messiah is the rock on which the Church is built

- The disciples might have been shocked that Jesus brought them to this pagan place.
- He had brought them there to get away, but this wasn't exactly the place for a spiritual retreat.
- It was the perfect place for Jesus to encourage His followers that the gates of Hades would not prevail over their mission.



Jesus as Messiah is the rock on which the Church is built

- Rock - is a play on words between *petra* and *petros*.
- **Petra** is a large mass of connected rock, such as a cliff or a rock riverbed – an immovable rock or foundation.
- **Petros** (Peter's name) is a detached stone or boulder that is movable and can even be thrown.



Jesus as Messiah is the rock on which the Church is built

- Peter was simply one stone in the building, like the other apostles, and the cornerstone is Christ.
- This fits with His words at the end of the Sermon on the Mount.
- Jesus says (Matthew 7:24-27) those who act on His teachings are like a wise man who builds his house on the rock (*petra*).



Jesus as Messiah is the rock on which the Church is built

- Jesus commended Peter for confessing a truth that could have only been revealed to him by the Father, not through human logic or wisdom (verse 17).
- The Pharisees could study all their lives and never understand.
- True spiritual wisdom is only revealed by the Spirit (1 Corinthians 2).



Jesus as Messiah is the rock on which the Church is built

- Keys - this is another play on words.
- Jesus is referring here to the keys commonly held by scribes as a symbol of their teaching function.
- The disciples would be the teachers of the Church.
- The keys (God's Word) open the gates to the kingdom.



Jesus as Messiah is the rock on which the Church is built

- As teachers of the Word, the disciples were the gatekeepers to the kingdom.
- Because what is bound/loosed on earth is bound/loosed in heaven, when the disciples taught and lived according to God's Word here on earth, their actions and decisions on earth would be in accord with what was already decided in heaven (verse 19).



Matthew 16:21-28

The cost of discipleship is to give our lives to follow Jesus

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The cost of discipleship is to give our lives to follow Jesus

- Jesus then condemned Peter.
- He had just praised him for knowing the truth that only God could have revealed to him.
- Peter knew Jesus was the Messiah, but he misunderstood who the Messiah was and why He came.



The cost of discipleship is to give our lives to follow Jesus

- The meaning of “take up his cross and follow me.”
- The context and the textual evidence point to Jesus’ speaking literally, not metaphorically.
- This would have been hard for the disciples to understand and even offensive to hear.



The cost of discipleship is to give our lives to follow Jesus

- Life - “whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it” is a play on words
- The word for “life” here is not word for physical life (*zoe*), which is a mere physical life but rather for soul (*psuche*)
- It would really be better translated as “whoever wants to save their *soul* will lose it.”



The cost of discipleship is to give our lives to follow Jesus

- (verse 26) “What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?”
- This statement uses hyperbole to make a point.
- Jesus was saying that even if you could gain the whole world, it wouldn't be worth losing your soul. Your soul is far more valuable than even the entire world (Psalm 49:8).



Caesarea Philippi

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Caesarea Maritima



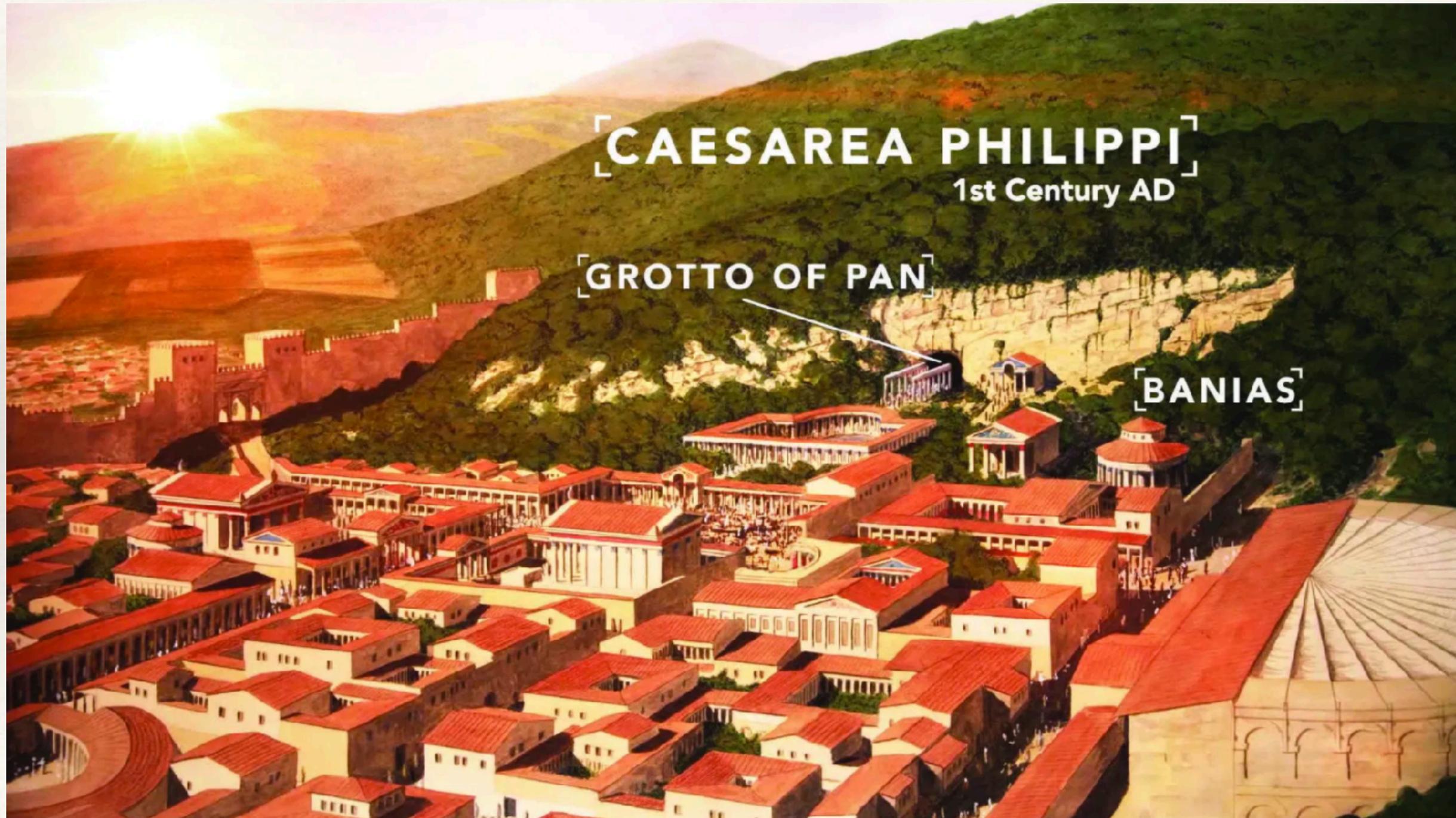
Caesarea Maritima



Caesarea Philippi



Caesarea Philippi



Agrippa's Palace







Pan - the Greek god







THE NEVER NEVER LAND

“You are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church,
and the **gates of hell** shall not prevail against it.”

Matthew 16:18

